

4 February 1983

Daily Summary of Positions on INF--Classified Developments

British-US Disputes Could Affect Deployment

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The British assert that difficulties with the US over a number of defense-related financial arrangements could affect GLCM deployment, according to Embassy London. The UK wants to renegotiate the existing overall cost-sharing agreement--concluded in 1973--but claims that the US has been unresponsive. Moreover, there have been a series of nagging disputes caused by the cessation of US payments for military housing and by lack of agreement on the number and pay of security personnel at base sites. The Embassy reports that the British have explicitly linked the housing payment issue to the signing of the GLCM Memorandum of Understanding. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Publicity about cost sharing disputes on INF would hand opponents another weapon and might encourage some nervous Conservatives to urge delay in delivery of INF equipment, set to begin this spring. Thatcher knows any delay in British INF deployment might affect the basing program in other countries, and she will want to resolve the disagreements quickly. Nevertheless, the British leave little doubt about their irritation over what they see as US footdragging. [REDACTED]

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